

Art Unit: 2100

CLMPTO

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Please cancel claims 1-43 and add new claims 44-49 as follows:

44. (New) A method including the following:

at a certification authority, receiving an executable program generated by a party independent of the certification authority;

at the certification authority, determining that no specification is available to the certification authority adequately describing the operations of the executable program;

at the certification authority, testing the executable program and, based on the results of the testing, generating a specification describing the operation of the executable program; and

at the certification authority, generating a digital certificate certifying that the executable program operates in the manner described in the specification.

45. (New) A method as in claim 44, further including:

receiving the executable program at a user site;

receiving the digital certificate at the user site;

at the user site, evaluating the digital certificate to determine if the digital certificate is associated with the executable program;

at the site site, evaluating the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program; and

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at the user site, executing the executable program, the execution being dependent on the evaluation of the digital certificate.

46. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the digital certificate specifies a security level, and

the user site evaluation of the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program includes comparing the security level to a required security level.

47. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the user site evaluation of the digital certificate to determine if the digital certificate is associated with the executable program includes comparing a hash value stored in the digital certificate to at least a portion of the executable program.

48. (New) A method as in claim 47, in which:

the hash value comparison is preceded by the user site decrypting the hash value using a public key associated with the certification authority.

49. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the digital certificate includes the specification, and the step of evaluating the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program includes evaluating the specification.